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अगदींच खासगी

जरूर वाचलेच पाहिजे

ना. नं. २२१

20

कोल्हापूर जिल्हा काँग्रेस कमिटी.
शाहूपुरी, कोल्हापूर.
तारीख २७.७.४९.

प्रिय बाळासाहेब,

सादर प्रणाम् -

आपण मुंबईहून लिहिलेले पत्र मला पोचल्यानंतर ता. २० जुले रोजी आपणास लगेच मी पत्र लिहिले व आपल्या पूर्वीच्या पत्रास अनुसरून जिल्हा पार्लमेन्टरी बोर्डाचे सदस्य व इतर सहकारी कार्यकर्ते यांच्याशी मी विचारविनिमय केला. मुंबई विधीमंडळा-वरील नॉमिनेशन बाबतीत आमचा झालेला विचार आपणास लगेच कळविणार होतो पण याच मुदतीत ता. २१ व २२ जुले रोजी श्री. मट साहेब हे कोल्हापुरास आले होते. नवीन जिल्ह्याची व मुंबई विधीमंडळावरील विलीन झालेल्या संस्थानच्या प्रतिनिधींच्या नावांची घोषणा एकदोन दिवसांतच होण्याची शक्यता आहे असे श्री. मटसाहेब यांचेकडून आम्हास कळले म्हणून आमच्या सूचना पाठवून कांही उपयोग नव्हता असे वाटले.

आजच आपण दिल्लीहून लिहिलेले तारीख २४ जुलैचे पत्र मिळाले आणि जिल्ह्याची घोषणाही पुढे ढकलण्यांत आली असे दुसरीकडूनही समजले म्हणून आमच्या खालिल सूचना आपणाकडे पाठवीत आहे, ..

१, विलीन झालेल्या संस्थानांचे प्रतिनिधी मुंबई प्रांताच्या विधीमंडळावर घ्यावयाचे सरकारकडून निश्चित झाले, हे प्रतिनिधी घेयास दिरंगाई होऊं नये, संस्थानी जनता प्रतिनिधित्वाशिवाय राहू नये आणि ही गोष्ट लौकरांत लौकर व्हावी म्हणून हिंद सरकारने हे प्रतिनिधी निवडणूक न करतां नियुक्त करून घ्यावयाचे ठरविले आणि त्याप्रमाणें योजना सुरु झाल्या. प्रत्यक्ष निवडणूक न करतां नियुक्ती (nomination) करून घेयाचे आणखी एक घटनात्मक अपरिहार्य कारण असावे असे आम्हास वाटते, आणि ते कारण म्हणजे विधीमंडळावर प्रतिनिधित्व असल्याशिवाय कोणताही मुप्रदेश प्रांताचा घटक म्हणून समाविष्ट होऊं शकणार नाहीं. हीच दृष्टी ठेऊन कोल्हापूर जिल्हा काँग्रेसच्या सर्व साधारण सभेने ता. ५ जून रोजी खालिल प्रमाणें ठराव करून नॉमिनेशनला मान्यता दिली आहे.

ठराव, .. "हिंदी संघराज्याच्या घटक राज्य कारभारांत संपूर्ण विलीन झालेल्या संस्थानांतील प्रजाजनांना प्रांतिक विधीमंडळांत प्रतिनिधित्व देण्याचा हिंद सरकारने निर्णय घेतला आहे. हे प्रतिनिधित्व प्रत्यक्ष निवडणुकीच्या मार्गाने होणे लोकशाहीच्या दृष्टीने योग्य आहे. तथापी संस्थान संपूर्णपणें विलीन होऊन मुंबई प्रांताचा एक घटक होत असतांना तेथील जनतेचे प्रतिनिधित्व प्रांतिकच्या विधिमंडळावर असणें घटनेनुसार अपरिहार्य आहे. यासाठीं लवकरच होणाऱ्या आगामी निवडणुकीपूर्वी हे प्रतिनिधित्व नॉमिनेशनने देण्याचा जो निर्णय हिंद सरकारने घेतला आहे तोच प्राप्त परिस्थितीत योग्य आहे. "

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लोकशाहीच्या राजवटीत निवडणारे प्रतिनिधित्व निवडणुकीनेच व्हावे ला
लक्षात ठेऊनही कांहीं घटनेच्या व तशाच व्यवहारीक अडचणीमुळेच नॉमिनेशनचा
पत्करावा लागत आहे, अशीच आमची समजूत असल्याने आम्हीं नॉमिनेशनला मान्
दिली आहे.

या नॉमिनेशनबद्दल आज प्रतिपक्षियाकडून समाजामध्यें बराच विरोधी प्रचार
गहजब चालू आहे. केवळ विरोधी प्रचार आहे म्हणून नव्हे तर नॉमिनेशनमधील इ
कांहीं अपरिहार्य दोष येतात ते टाळण्यासाठीं आणि संस्थानी जनताही निःसंश
कॉंग्रेसच्या पाठीमागे आहे हे सिध्द करून दाखविण्यासाठीं जर सर्व अपरिहार्य अ
कारणेसुध्दा दूर करून हे प्रतिनिधित्व प्रत्यक्ष निवडणुकीने घेतां आल्यास फार
चांगले होईल असे आमचे स्पष्ट मत आहे. घटनेच्या कांहीं तांत्रिक अडचणी असती
त्या खास कायद्याच्ये दूर करतां आल्यास करून, या विधिमंडळावरील प्रतिनिधि
प्रत्यक्ष निवडणुकीचाच अवलंब करावा असे आम्हांस वाटते.

कॉंग्रेसला आज विधीमंडळांतील बहुमताविषयीं कांहीं चिंता नाहीं आणि
संस्थानांतून घ्यावयाचे ६५ प्रतिनिधी हे कांहीं कॉंग्रेसमताचेच निवडून येणार नाहीं
असे समजण्याचे कारण नाहीं. आणि असे कांहीं आम्हीं अगर तुम्ही अगर हिंद
सरकारही मुळीच समजत नाहीं. केवळ कांहीं तांत्रिक अडचणीमुळेच नॉमिनेशनचा म
पत्करावा लागला असेल असे वाटते. आणि याचा गैरफायदा मात्र प्रतिपक्षियांन
घेतला आहे. निवडणुका झाल्यास दक्षिणी संस्थानांतून कॉंग्रेसचे प्रतिनिधी प्रचंड ब
खास निवडून येतील अशी मी आपणांस खात्री देऊं शकतो.

हे आमचे विचार जरी उशिरा कळवीत असलो तरी प्राप्त परिस्थितीत या
आमच्या विचारसरणीचा आपण लक्षपूर्वक विचार करावा अशी आपणांस विनंत

ही गोष्ट अगदीच अशक्य असून नॉमिनेशनच आवश्यक झाल्यास कोल्हापूर त
पूर्ण विचार करून आम्हीं ठरविलेल्या नांवांची यादी यासोबत आहे, त्याचा
जरूर विचार करावा अशी विनंती आहे. नांव कोणाचे यावे हा कांहीं महत्वा
नाहीं, पण जी नांवे येतील त्यांच्याकडून कॉंग्रेसची व कॉंग्रेस सरकारची इज्जत प
गेली पाहिजे. नॉमिनेशन असल्यामुळे जनतेमध्यें नॉमिनेशनने गैरसमजही होणार ना
दक्षता घेतली पाहिजे. या सर्व गोष्टींचा विचार करूनच सोबतची नांवे आम्हीं
आहेत.

या नांवासंबंधी आपणांबरोबर प्रत्यक्ष चर्चा झाली असती तर फारच चांग
असते, पण माझ्या पूर्वीच्या पत्रांत लिहिल्याप्रमाणें कांहीं अपरिहार्य कारणामु
ते शक्य झाले नाहीं. वर्तमानपत्रांतून आणि इतरही कांहीं ठिकाणांतून या प्रति
नांवे ऐकिवात येऊं लागली, ती नांवे ऐकून सरोसरच आम्हीं अस्वस्थ झालों आ
म्हणूनच मी आपणांस मागचे पत्र लिहिले. 'अद्याप नांवे निश्चित झाली नाहीं

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लोकशाहीच्या राजवटीत भिणारे प्रतिनिधित्व निवडणुकीनेच व्हावे लागते हे लक्षात ठेऊनही कांहीं घटनेच्या व तशाच व्यवहारीक अडचणीमुळेच नॉमिनेशनचा मार्ग पत्करावा लागत आहे, अशीच आमची समजूत असल्याने आम्हीं नॉमिनेशनला मान्यता दिली आहे.

या नॉमिनेशनबद्दल आज प्रतिपक्षियाकडून समाजामध्यें बराच विरोधी प्रचाराचा गहजब चालू आहे. केवळ विरोधी प्रचार आहे म्हणून नव्हे तर नॉमिनेशनमधील इतरही कांहीं अपरिहार्य दोष येतात ते टाळण्यासाठीं आणि संस्थानी जनताही निःसंशय कॉंग्रेसच्या पाठीमागे आहे हे सिध्द करून दाखविण्यासाठीं जर सर्व अपरिहार्य अशी कारणेसुध्दा दूर करून हे प्रतिनिधित्व प्रत्यक्ष निवडणुकीने घेतां आल्यास फारच चांगले होईल असे आमचे स्पष्ट मत आहे. घटनेच्या कांहीं तांत्रिक अडचणी असतील तर त्या खास कायद्याच्ये दूर करतां आल्यास करून, या विधिमंडळावरील प्रतिनिधीसाठीं प्रत्यक्ष निवडणुकीचाच अवलंब करावा असे आम्हांस वाटते.

कॉंग्रेसला आज विधीमंडळांतील बहुमताविषयीं कांहीं चिंता नाहीं आणि शिवाय संस्थानांतून घ्यावयाचे ६५ प्रतिनिधी हे कांहीं कॉंग्रेसमताचेच निवडून येणार नाहींत असे समजण्याचे कारण नाहीं. आणि असे कांहीं आम्हीं अगर तुम्ही अगर हिंद = सरकारही मुळीच समजत नाहीं. केवळ कांहीं तांत्रिक अडचणीमुळेच नॉमिनेशनचा मार्ग पत्करावा लागला असेल असे वाटते. आणि याचा गैरफायदा मात्र प्रतिपक्षियांनीं घेतला आहे. निवडणुक झाल्यास दक्षिणी संस्थानांतून कॉंग्रेसचे प्रतिनिधी प्रचंड बहुमताने खास निवडून येतील अशी मी आपणांस खात्री देऊं शकतो.

हे आमचे विचार जरी उशिरा कळवीत असलो तरी प्राप्त परिस्थितीत या आमच्या विचारसरणीचा आपण लक्षपूर्वक विचार करावा अशी आपणांस विनंती आहे.

ही गोष्ट अगदीच अशक्य असून नॉमिनेशनच आवश्यक झाल्यास कोल्हापूर तर्फेची पूर्ण विचार करून आम्हीं ठरविलेल्या नांवांची यादी यासोबत आहे, त्याचा आपण जरूर विचार करावा अशी विनंती आहे. नांव कोणाचे यावे हा कांहीं महत्वाचा मुद्दा नाहीं, पण जी नांवे येतील त्यांच्याकडून कॉंग्रेसची व कॉंग्रेस सरकारची इज्जत पाळली गेली पाहिजे. नॉमिनेशन असल्यामुळे जनतेमध्यें नॉमिनेशनने गैरसमजही होणार नाहीं अशी दक्षता घेतली पाहिजे. या सर्व गोष्टींचा विचार करूनच सोबतची नांवे आम्हीं योजिली आहेत.

या नांवासंबंधी आपणांबरोबर प्रत्यक्ष चर्चा झाली असती तर फारच चांगले झाले असते, पण माझ्या पूर्वीच्या पत्रांत लिहिल्याप्रमाणें कांहीं अपरिहार्य कारणामुळे मला ते शक्य झाले नाहीं. वर्तमानपत्रांतून आणि इतरही कांहीं ठिकाणांतून या प्रतिनिधींची नांवे ऐकिवात येऊं लागली, ती नांवे ऐकून खरोखरच आम्हीं अस्वस्थ झालों आणि म्हणूनच मी आपणांस मागचे पत्र लिहिले. 'अद्याप नांवे निश्चित झाली नाहींत '

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असे आपणांकडून समजल्यामुळे आम्ही निश्चिंत झालो आणि सर्व परिस्थितीचा विचार करून या सूचना आपणांकडे केल्या आहेत. सोबतची नांवे सर्वथैव योग्य आहेत. त्यांत सर्व बाबींचा विचार केलागेला आहे. त्याचा योग्य तोच उपयोग होईल अशी अपेक्षा आहे. पत्रोत्तराची अपेक्षा आहे. कळावे.

आपला नम्र,

रत्नाप्पा कुंभार

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मुंबई विधिमंडळावर द्यावयाची नांवे

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(बी.ए. एल.एल.बी) हरीजन समाजांत लोकप्रिय असून निष्ठावंत
२०९०, 'बळवंत विलिंग, काँग्रेस कार्यकर्ते आहेत.
मंगळवार पेठ, कोल्हापूर. महाराष्ट्र हरीजन सेवक संघाचे अध्यक्ष
श्री. बाबासाहेब बर्वे यानी असें कळविलें तां
यांच्या नांवाची शिफारस आमच्याकडे केली होती

४) श्री. श्रीपतराव डी. पाटील, - इंटर पर्यंत शिक्षण झाले असून तरुण, उत्साही
निष्ठावंत काँग्रेस कार्यकर्ते, सध्या मुंबईमध्ये
'सरस्वती सुमंत कुंज' वास्तव्य असून, कोल्हापूर, सातारा वगैरे भागां-
शिवाजीपार्क, रोड नं. १ तील मुंबईला जे कामगार लोक आहेत त्यांच्यामध्ये
दादर, मुंबई २८. बहुजन समाजवादाना शह देणारे उमदे कार्यकर्ते
आहेत. कोल्हापूरांतील मराठा समाजामध्ये त्यांचे
स्थान फार वरचे आहे.

५) श्री. बी. एस. पाटील - एफ.वाय. पर्यंतचे शिक्षण झाले असून, तरुण
मु॰ गिजवणे, उत्साही व काँग्रेसचे निष्ठावंत कार्यकर्ते.
पो॰ गडहिंग्लज, गडहिंग्लज तालुक्यांत जनताप्रिय असून सध्या
व्हाया-संकेश्वर. चेरीचे कामगार संघटनेत काम करीत असतात.

६) श्री. चिंतामण विनायक लाड - एक निष्ठावंत व लोकप्रिय कार्यकर्ते
बी.ए. एल.एल.बी.

गुजरी,
कोल्हापूर

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७) सौ. किसनताई जयराम शेटये - पूर्वीपासून स्त्रियांचेमध्ये काम करणाऱ्या कॉंग्रेस कार्यकर्त्या.
गुजरी नाका,
कोल्हापूर.

८) श्री. वसंतराव आप्पाजी सरनाईक - कोऑपरेटिव्ह निरपेक्ष बुद्धीने वसा
(बी.ए. एल.एल.बी. बी.कॉम.) भावनेने काम करणारे एक उत्साही
शिवाजीपेठ, सद्गृहस्थ.
कोल्हापूर.

९) श्री. महमद फारूक बालेखान शेख - मुसलमान समाजातील सज्जन व
(बी.ए. एल.एल.बी.) चांगले सद्गृहस्थ,
गंगावेस,
कोल्हापूर

मुंबई लेजिस्लेटिव्ह कौन्सिलसाठी

१) श्री. क्षात्रजगद्गुरू - आपणास यांची माहिती आहे.
(बी.ए.)
गादीपुरी,
कोल्हापूर.

वरील सद्गृहस्थ सर्व दृष्टीने योग्य आहेत. त्यांत कॉंग्रेसचे व कॉंग्रेसच्या बाहेरचे असे योग्य प्रमाण आहे. समाजामध्ये या नांवामुळे फारच चांगला परिणाम होणार आहे. या नॉमिनेशनच्या यादीमध्ये श्री. दी. टी. पाटील, श्री. खर्डेकर, श्री. पोळ, श्री. मुक्ता ही नांवे कदाचित आपल्या समोर आली असतील कारण त्यांची नांवे अनेक वेळा यासंबंधी वर्तमानपत्रांत आली आहेत. या नावांची नियुक्ती झाल्यास जनतेत वरच गैरसमज होणार आहेत. तरी यांची दक्षता घेऊन वर उद्धृत केलेली नांवे आपण विचारांत घ्यावीत अशी विनंती आहे.

रत्नाप्पा कुंभार

CHIEF

NO. CAD/474

25

Chief Administrator's
Office,
Kolhapur, 10th March
1949.

My Dear Mr. Shankar,

On behalf of myself and the people of Kolhapur State, please convey our gratefulness to Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, for the inspiring message sent by him on the occasion of the inauguration of the integration of the Kolhapur State with the Province of Bombay. The message has been sent to the Press and has been received with great satisfaction by all sections of the people. The people of Kolhapur State are deeply conscious of the great efforts, which the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister has ceaselessly made for the unification of our Nation. Particularly the democratisation of the States has given the people of Kolhapur greater opportunity of association with their brethren in the Province of Bombay, and they are sure to use this long cherished benefit with prudence for their progress and fulfilment of their aspirations.

Please also kindly convey my best respects to Sardar Patel.

With kind regards to you,

Yours Sincerely

V Nanjappa

(V.Nanjappa)

V.Shankar Esq., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to Hon.
Deputy Prime Minister,
Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

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TELEGRAM

STATE
IMMEDIATE

NANJAPPA
ADMINISTRATOR
KOLHAPUR

256

IMMEDIATE

FOLLOWING IS SARDAR'S MESSAGE ON OCCASION OF MERGER. BEGINS. ON THE OCCASION OF MERGER OF KOLHAPUR STATE WITH THE BOMBAY PROVINCE I SEND TO THE PEOPLE OF KOLHAPUR MY BEST WISHES FOR THEIR HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY. TREND OF ~~MARGING~~ modern DEVELOPMENT IS INCREASINGLY IN FAVOUR OF CLOSER UNITY. NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF INDIA WAS NEED FOR UNITY GREATER. AM VERY GLAD THAT HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA AND PEOPLE OF KOLHAPUR ~~HAD~~ have REALISED THIS NEED AND HAVE DECIDED TO SHAPE ~~THEIR~~ State's FUTURE IN GREATER UNISON WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS AND IN COMPLETE INTEGRATION WITH THE INDIAN UNION. I HOPE THE PEOPLE OF KOLHAPUR WILL UTILISE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMOCRATISATION THAT WILL INEVITABLY FOLLOW WITH WISDOM AND PRUDENCE AND THAT IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR BRETHREN IN THE PROVINCE OF BOMBAY THEY WILL MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN THE FULFILMENT OF THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND DESTINY. I WISH THEM GODSPEED. ENDS.

SHANKAR.

~~NOT TO BE~~ TELEGRAPHED:-

MINISTRY OF STATES.
.....

NEW DELHI, the 1st March 1949.

o/c

P.A. TO THE HON'BLE SARDAR
VALLABHBHAI PATEL.

4/3/49

One copy has been sent to Secy. States

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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Secretariat,
Bombay, 24th February 1949.

Kolhapur file

Dear Shankar

I have received a letter from Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar, President, Kolhapur District Congress Committee representing that now that Kolhapur is being merged in Bombay the representative of the Kolhapur Maharaja on the Constituent Assembly, viz. Mr. Khardekar, should be made to resign and another representative of the people elected in his place. I understand that they have represented the matter to the States Ministry and to the Constituent Assembly already. Will you please bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Sardar Patel?

Yours Sincerely
B.G. Kher
(B.G. Kher)

Shri V. Shankar, I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Sardar Patel,
1, Aurangzeb Road,
NEW DELHI.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

R. No. 582

432

Kolhapur

Kolhapur, 19th Jan., 1949.

My Dear Sardarsaheb,

Kindly allow me to convey to you the heartfelt thanks of the Kolhapur people for bringing about the merger of the State. We are all so happy about the event and look forward to a new era of progress and prosperity for the people here. We are eagerly awaiting for the official announcement of the merger when we shall take the earliest opportunity to publicly express our sense of gratitude to the Government of India and to yourself in particular.

2. I wish to take your valuable time and place before you two proposals which arise out of the merger:-

1) In order to smoothen the transition of Kolhapur State from its existing independent position to that of a district in the Province of Bombay, it is essential to continue the post of the Administrator for some time, even after the merger, and to give him sufficient authority to clear out the huge debris of work that has accumulated in every department. This will avoid the inconveniences which have been caused to the people of the other Deccan States in the period immediately following the merger.

2) Secondly, there are several resources of the State. For instance, the State Railway, the Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Textile Mills, the Telephone Exchange etc.. The value of these assets must be ear-marked for development work in the State which has to be organised on a more or less permanent basis in order to bring Kolhapur on a line with the other districts of the Province.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

I have addressed detailed letters on these topics to the States Ministry (copies enclosed herewith). Both the matters are very urgent and I would request you to kindly give your most sympathetic consideration to them.

3. I have also one more request to you. The Hon'ble Mr. G.V.Mavlankar has been connected with Kolhapur for a very long time. He knows the people here, the local - situation, and our problems. He has also known some of our development schemes at first hand. I would, therefore, be grateful if you would kindly request him to give you his views on these problems. He would be able to explain the whole position in a way in which no official can ever do it.

With best regards,

Yours faithfully,

Ratnappa Kumbhar

(Ratnappa Kumbhar).

Office of the Kolhapur Dist. Congress Committee, Kolhapur.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No.ADM/Dh/1289

SECRET.

19th October 1948.

Dear

Subject:- Kolhapur Affairs.

You may have seen from the news papers that a conference for the unification of Maharashtra was held at Bombay a couple of days ago under the presidentship of Ramrao Deshmukh of Berar. His Highness and Mr. Latthe had deputed a small deputation headed by Mr. Daundkar solicitor, Bombay and a staunch communalist and anti-Congress worker to attend this conference on behalf of Kolhapur. Mr. Daundkar leader of the Kolhapur delegation was briefed to plead for the retention of Kolhapur State as an independent unit, in the conference. The conference, however, is understood to have passed a resolution recommending merger of Kolhapur State with Maharashtra. His Highness is naturally disappointed with the resolution of the conference.

It is interesting to note that Messrs Jedhe and More, leaders of the Shetkari-Kamkari anti-Congress party of Poona have issued statements demanding the merger of Kolhapur State. Mr. Madhavrao Bagal attempted to plead for Kolhapur on behalf of His Highness but failed. Kolhapur State is on the eve of intense political activity. His Highness has secretly convened a meeting of all anti-merger elements during the course of this week in the house of Dr. Dhanavade, Hon. physician of His Highness. It is expected that Mr. Madhavrao Bagal and Dr. Dhanavade will take a leading part in the discussions. Mr. Latthe is however the secret inspiring force of the campaign which Bagal and Dhanavade have launched in the State to oppose merger. It appears to me that Bagal is bent on creating trouble in the state with the object of discrediting the present administration. I have called him and warned him that any attempt to create lawlessness in the State will not be tolerated by Government. Mr. Bagal, however, does not appear to heed the warning as he is being encouraged and assured by His Highness and Mr. Latthe that nothing will happen to Mr. Bagal in any case.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

There are rumours that residents of Kolhapur enclave villages in the Bombay Province which are several miles away from Kolhapur are proposing to start a movement in favour of merger of the State with the Bombay Province. Security arrangements to deal with any emergency are ready.

Yours

Sd. V.Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

N. M. Buch, Esqr., I. C. S.,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy ~~submitted with compliments~~ to -

(1) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi,

(2) Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier, Government of Bombay, Bombay,

(3) His Excellency, Raja Maharajsing, Governor of Bombay, Bombay,

for information.

V Nanjappa
Administrator, Kolhapur.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

SECRET

19th October 1948.

Dear

Subject:- **Anti-merger propaganda in Kolhapur State.**

I enclose herewith a copy of an anonymous letter received by me addressed to Hon. Sardar Patel.

Ever since His Excellency the Governor of Bombay discussed the question of the merger to Kolhapur State with His Highness, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the situation in the State is deteriorating and the Maharaja is carrying on a very intensive and active anti-merger campaign. In this campaign he is utilising the services of every possible anti-Congress element in and outside the State. His chief lieutanants in the State are Mr. Latthe, Prime Minister and the notorious Mr. Madhavrao Bagal. The Coyajee report has been received by His Highness. Justice Coyajee in his report lays the blame full and square on the ex-Ministry. Justice Coyajee has found the Bagal Ministry guilty of all the charges except that of conspiracy. The report says that the Ministry, (1) failed to supress the disturbances, (2) by their conduct connived at the disturbances and (3) by their conduct actively encouraged the disturbances. Though the report is not yet published in the press the main findings have leaked out and are known to many people here.

Bagal, Latthe and the Maharajasahab are seriously upset over the findings of the Coyajee report. They have, therefore, intensified their anti-merger anti-Indian Union anti-Congress campaign. Under Mr. Latthe's inspiration and with the secret financial assistance of the Maharaja Bagal has started a weekly 'Akhand Bharat' which appears to be devoted entirely to condemning the Central and the Bombay Government, the Congress party and the Administrator's regime in Kolhapur. In his recent utterances at Sholapur and Poona, Bagal has gone to the extent of saying that Hon. Sardar Patel and Hon. Mr. Morarji Desai are responsible for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi.

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A whispering campaign has also been undertaken against the Administrator by Latthe and Bagal and their satellites in order to browbeat and blackmail me. They are making my task in Kolhapur as difficult as possible. Latthe has little official work as Prime Minister and is openly and freely indulging in intrigues against the Administrator. I regret to say that the Maharajasaheb is also holding secret meetings in his palace at night and is asking as many members of the services as possible to assist him in the anti-merger campaign. I am glad to say that the vast majority of the services and especial the police are still keeping themselves aloof from these political currents.

I am separately writing to Rao Bahadur Menon regarding abolition of Prime Minister's post at Kolhapur and hope that necessary advise will be conveyed to the Maharajasaheb as soon as possible on this point.

Though the mischievous elements in Kolhapur are doing their best to make the position as awkward and difficult as possible, I am holding fast. I am watching the situation carefully.

Yours

Sd. V. Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

K. M. Buch, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy submitted to -

(1) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi.

(2) Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier, Govt. of Bombay, Bombay.

(3) His Excellency Raja Maharajsing, Governor of Bombay, Bombay,

for information.

V Nanjappa
Administrator, Kolhapur.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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K. H. Buch, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy submitted to -

(1) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi.

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(3) His Excellency Raja Maharajsing, Governor of Bombay, Bombay,

for information.

V Nanjappa
Administrator, Kolhapur.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bombay:- 1st November 1948

To

President,
Constituant Assembly,
New Delhi.

Kolhapur Maharajas nomination of Barrister Khardekar to Constituant Assembly in place of Shri Latthe who recently resigned is strongly objectionable stop Maharaja without consulting Kolhapur Congress and other public bodies delibrately nominated Khardekar who is the dictator of Bagals Prajaparishad, a small clique flouting rule of Administrator appointed by India Gocernment stop pray reject Khardekars nomination and asked administrator appoint popular Representative stop I have placed this matter before Honourable Sardar Patel today during interview.

Soliciting ~~Expecting~~ immediate action.

Nana Dharmadhikari
Kapiltrith Kolhapur.

Nana Dharmadhikari
1-11-48

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

SECRET.

No. ADM/Dh/ 1385
Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur, 28th September 1948.

Dear Rao Bahadur

(1) H.E. Raja Maharajsing, Governor of Bombay
(2) Hon. Mr. B.G.Kher, Premier, Govt. of Bombay, Bombay
(3) V.Shankar, Esq., I.C.S., Priv. Secretary to the Hon. Premier of Bombay, Delhi.

Subject: Kolhapur Affairs.

The situation in Kolhapur is worsening every day. Thanks to the activities of the Maharajasaheb, Latthe, Bagal and his henchmen. Bagal has recently started a weekly journal which is carrying on a bitter and personal propaganda against the Administrator calculated to undermine his authority and bring the Government of the State into contempt and disrepute. The last three issues of this journal have been full of most scurrilous personal attacks against the Administrator. I did my best to be patient and did not take any action against Bagal's paper until today as I did not want to appear that I was vindictive or personally interested. Mr. Bagal has mistaken my patience for weakness and in today's issue of this journal has come out with more personal attacks. The general effect of these articles is to undermine the authority and prestige of the Government of the State. I am convinced that these articles are being written under the inspiration of the Maharaja and Latthe. I have today prohibited the publication of Bagal's journal. This action of mine is bound to be construed by the Maharaja and Latthe as partisanship. Government's prestige has been rapidly declining due to the publication of these articles and this action was therefore quite essential. Bagal has also been inciting his men both through his paper and through secret meetings and whispering campaign to create disturbances throughout the State. As I was apprehending disturbances of the peace, this journal had to be suppressed.

I am now fully satisfied that Latthe and the Maharajasaheb are behind this mischievous movement of Bagal. They are also behind Bagal's attempt to create disturbances in the State. I should not be surprised if minor disturbances break out in parts of the State in the near future. I have, however, taken every possible precaution to maintain peace and order. The police and Magistrates have been directed to be alert and ordered to put down disturbances firmly and impartially. Latthe and the Maharajasaheb are making my task of administration of the State increasingly difficult day by day. Their mischievous tactics are wellknown to the people of the State. I would, therefore, request that immediate action be taken to advise the Maharajasaheb to discharge Mr. Latthe from the post of the Prime Minister.

His Highness the Maharajasaheb has gone away to Bombay on private affairs (presumably to negotiate with the Maratha leaders and newspaperx editors in Bombay and Poona).

I would also request that the Maharajasaheb may be advised to give his wholehearted and sincere cooperation to the Administrator in his difficult task.

Yours

Sd. V. Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

Rao Bahadur V. P. Menon, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Adviser, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

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SECRET.

No.ADM/Dh/1283
Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur,25th October 1948.

Dear Buch,

Subject:- Kolhapur Affairs.

Political activity in the State is increasing rapidly. I have already reported that Latthe and Bagal are carrying on an intensive anti-merger campaign. Congress elements under the leadership of Ratnappa Kumbhar,President, of the Kolhapur Congress Committee have also now launched a campaign in favour of merger. Ratnappa Kumbhar has visited some talukas of the State and formed Taluka Congress Committees. The various Congress Committees are passing resolutions in favour of merger of Kolhapur State.

It is rumoured that Ratnappa Kumbhar is likely to launch a vigorous movement for the merger of Kolhapur State enclaves in the Bombay Province which are situated about 75 to 100 miles from Kolhapur. These isolated State territories are situated in the Karnatak and the people of these parts speak only Kannad. These areas have been considerably neglected by the Darbar administration for many years. The people of these isolated areas are all in favour of merger of their villages with the Bombay districts as they find it very inconvenient to come to Kolhapur for revenue,civil and criminal work.

Latthe and Bagal have drafted a memorial addressed to His Highness requesting the reinstatement of the nominated popular ministers who have been absolved in the Coyajee report. These ministers are the Maharaja's puppets and were appointed before the assumption of office by the Popular Ministry. These are with one exception uneducated and none of them have any administrative experience. They have no political following in the State and possess no character.All sections of political thought in Kolhapur State including saner elements and intellectuals are totally opposed to the reinstatement of these "popular" ministers. The object of this move is anti-democratic and is against the best interests of the State.The Maharaja desires to get back all the autocratic powers he had before the assumption of office by the popular Ministry.

It is also rumoured that M/s Latthe and Bagal are attempting to obtain signatures of the mischievous and anti-Government elements on a memorial addressed to His Highness containing grievances against the present Administrator's regime. It is reliably understood that both Bagal and Latthe have taken oaths and have assured their supporters to arrange for the removal of the Administrator from Kolhapur in a month's time.

I enclose a summary in English of the Marathi speech delivered by Mr.Latthe at the Town Hall in a recent Municipal function. Mr.Latthe has openly declared himself against merger and has discussed the disadvantages of merger. It appears to me most undesirable and objectionable that a senior Government servant should take part in the controversial politics of the State.

His Highness's private Secretary Mr.R.Y. Chavan and other members of his staff are also taking an active part in these political activities. The Secretary has under instructions from His Highness been approaching journalists and politicians to work and speak in favour of anti-merger,attack Administrator's regime and support the reinstatement of the ex-ministry. I pointed out to His Highness that it is undesirable to permit Government servants to take part in political activity. He replied

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replied that Kolhapur was a State and the position here was quite different from that prevailing in the Indian Union. He told me that his personal staff were taking part in the politics in the State under his own instructions. He is therefore not prepared to take any action against them. I emphasised that if Government servants start aligning themselves with the rival political groups, the administration would become very inefficient and people will not get justice.

I suggest that the States Ministry may impress on His Highness the necessity of keeping the State services free from politics.

Yours

sd.

(V.Nanjappa).

N.M.Buch, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy w.cs.to V.Shankar Esqr., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister,
New Delhi.

26 10 48

V Nanjappa
Administrator

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A summary in English of a Marathi speech delivered by Hon.Mr.A.B.Latthe,the Prime Minister of Kolhapur State on the occasion of the celebration of 94th Anniversary of the Kolhapur Municipal Borough on Tuesday 12th October 1948 at Town Hall,Kolhapur.

" Today the question of the merger of Kolhapur is being discussed. Some persons feel that if Kolhapur merges and becomes a district,it would thereby be protected, But this idea is erroneous. There is peace and order in Kolhapur State now. What is now going on the neighbouring district of Satara ? A cursory glance on the district of Satara would convince anybody that murders,davoities,riots,looting and arsons are being regularly indulged into,in broad day light, in this part ruled as it is by the Congress. This shows that the Bombay Ministry is inefficient. Some days back,I was talking with some merchants who said in the course of conversation,"We do not want the repetition of what had happened on 31st of January". But nobody can assure that the apprehensions regarding recurrence of the incidents of January 31st would be avoided if Kolhapur is converted into a District of Bombay. In the District of Satara the men were burnt alive but nothing of this sort has happened in Kolhapur. Even assuming that Kolhapur becomes a district can not the houses of Brahmins be set on fire ?

2. His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharajasaheb has given practically all his ruling powers except the few reserved subjects to the People. Unfortunately it appears that these powers have been lost but they can be recovered if the people resolve to get them back. Today Kolhapur has become an object of ridicule,outside Kolhapur, All of you know this fact. It is said that in Kolhapur the goondas are ruling and that nobody's life is safe therein. I won't say that all the people in Kolhapur are Goondas nor will I say that all the people are responsible for the sad incident that had occurred. The people in Kolhapur are really good,but very few people have committed some thoughtless action due to which Kolhapur has been the target of general disrepute. We must try our b st to do away with this discredit. The houses belonging to the persons of the minority were burnt out in broad day light in the direct presence of our ministers,the police and the District Magistrate. What does this episode show ? This is not democracy. It is a fact which all must acknowledge that the Marathas are in the majority in Kolhapur. It is,therefore, but natural that under democracy the power would come into their hands.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Confdl.

No. ADM/Dh/ 484 48
Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur, 1st August 1948.

Dear Rao Bahadur

When I met His Excellency the Governor of Bombay at Ratnagiri in May last, I invited him to visit Kolhapur and he kindly agreed to do so at an early date. His Excellency accompanied by Rani Maharajsingh and staff will be visiting Kolhapur from 3rd to 5th August 1948. A copy of the programme is enclosed herewith for your perusal. The local Municipality are presenting a civic address An English translation of the proposed civic address along with the draft reply of His Excellency suggested by me is also enclosed for your perusal. I have purposely included reference to communalism and provincialism.

The Municipal address is the only important public function. The visit is purely social and His Excellency will be coming as the guest of His Highness. The visit is not expected to have any political reactions. The pro-merger elements in the State, however welcome the Visit as a sign of the future shape of things. Thereis no opposition from any section. It is expected that the Visit will have a very good effect on the local population enhancing the prestige of the Indian Government in the State. This will be much appreciated as an indication of Indian Government's Policy.

Yours

V Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

Rao Bahadur V. P. Menon, C.SI., C.I.E.,
Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Secret ADM/Dh/986

1st October 1948.

Dear

Your SecretD.O. No.D.13424-P/48 dated 26th September. Nana Patil of Satara has been externed from Kolhapur State and is not allowed to enter Kolhapur State limits. Since his externment he has not come to Kolhapur State. I have verified this from several reliable sources today.

M/s Jedhe and More of the Bahujan Samajwadi party are moving about in the Maharashtra districts, especially, Sholapur, Satara and Poona and saying that Sardar Patel and M/s Kher and Morarji Desai are responsible for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. M. K. Bagal, the anti-Indian Union leader of Kolhapur has now openly joined the Bahujan Samajwadi party and is carrying on a vigorous anti-merger campaign in the State. This campaign appears to be being secretly financed by the Maharaja and the plans are made out by Mr.Latthe. I am carefully watching these movements. Mr. Bagal has issued several leaflets recently and also made some speeches and issued statements innewspapers. I am carefully watching the activities of anti-merger elements and if they do anything illegal, I shall not hesitate to take suitable action against them.

I have already reported to you regarding the publication of the Shetkari-Kamgar Paksha by Mr. More.

Yours sincerely,

Sd.V.Nanjappa

S. Narayanswamy, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S. Private Secretary to the Hon. Dy. Prime Minister, Ministry of States, New Delhi.

V Nanjappa
Administrator, Kolhapur

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Kolhapur

SECRET

ADM/Dh/829

55

Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur, 14th September 1948.

Dear Shri Latthe

Subject:- Grant of land to Bhaurao Patil at Rukdi village.

You must be aware that His Highness the Maharaja Saheb has granted extensive land and buildings at Rukdi village to Bhaurao Patil of Satara for the ostensible purpose of running a training school. I must confess, I have not been happy about this grant of land and buildings from the beginning. For one thing, the State training college is housed in those buildings and it would be unfair to ask the Education Department to hand over the buildings to the State training college. It appears to me that this aspect of the case was lost sight of by His Highness and I would request you to submit this point to His Highness for his careful consideration. Secondly, I have been noticing that Bhaurao Patil is carrying on an intensive anti-Government propaganda in Kolhapur State and in the Maharashtra. He is making personal and violent attacks against members of the Central and Provincial Governments including our beloved leaders, Pandit Neheru and Sardar Patel. The grant of land to such a person is bound to be misconstrued by the States Ministry. In any case, it is certainly in my opinion, an impolitic decision. I would, therefore, request you to move His Highness to reconsider the matter and take steps to cancel the grant of land. Possession has not yet been handed over.

Yours sincerely,

Sd V. Nanjappa

Shri A. B. Latthe, M A.,LL.B.,
Prime Minister,
Kolhapur.

Copy with compliments to V. Shankar Esqr., I.C.S., Joint Secretary, States Ministry, New Delhi.

V Nanjappa
Administrator.
20/9/48.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ratnappa Kumbhar,
Kolhapur.

Camp: Bombay.

26th August 1948.

My dear Sardarsaheb,

I am writing to you after a fairly long time because I did not want to trouble you during the period of your convalescence. I am glad that you have fully recouped your health and are again at your post in the service of our country. May God give you good health and long life.

2. The main object of writing this letter is to show to you that the time to take a decisive step and merge the state has now come. Just now, all the opposition forces are most demoralised and at their lowest ebb. The Maharaja is frightened because the Administrator has asked him to refund the huge sum of Rs.65 lakhs or so which the Maharaja has illegally taken from the treasury. The party of Mr.Bagal is also most demoralised because of the enquiry under justice Coyajee. The rabid communal organisation of Messrs.Jedhe and More has not had any time to spread its feet in Kolhapur. The friends of the Maharaja are also trembling in their shoes because they have lost all influence and are feeling that an early merger is inevitable. The Maharaja himself has become so unpopular with the public at large owing to his vices that merger will be deemed to be a relief by most of the subjects of the State. The most critical time has, therefore, arrived and the State must be merged, if ever, now. The question should, under no circumstances, be postponed beyond September. The Governor of Bombay recently paid a visit to Kolhapur when we could meet him and when he could study the situation first hand. I feel that he was also convinced of the extreme desirability of deciding the merger issue without delay.

3. There is no truth in the statement that riots will break out in Kolhapur if the State is merged. Such prophecies were made on several occasions in the past viz., when the Bagal

Ministry

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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Kolhapur.

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Ministry

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ministry was dismissed, Mr.Madhavrao Bagal was arrested, etc. But nothing happened. Now the conditions are so favourable that a reaction is least likely to happen. The situation is well under control - as the Administrator will testify. I therefore feel that there is no point in postponing merger on a panicky forecast of eventualities.

4. I would also like to impress upon you the complications that will arise if the merger issue is postponed. It will not be possible then to delay elections any longer. Once the elections start, all opposition forces which are now demoralised and at the lowest ebb will be strengthened again. The Maharaja will spend huge a ounts in subsidizing all reactionary and communal elements. An attempt will be made to secure a majority for the rabid communalists in the forthcoming elections and then to create fresh difficulties with their support . The politics of Bahujan Samajvad of Jedhe and More will be introduced in Kolhapur and fully developed on the election platform. I am afraid that these and numerous other complications will arise if a decision on the merger is postponed and elections are held (as they inevitably must be). These complications must be avoided at any cost.

5. I have seen Sjt.Balasaheb Kher and discussed the situation with him in detail. I would, therefore, request you to kindly discuss the situation with Sjt.Kher during his next visit to Delhi and take a final decision on the matter.

6. I would also be grateful if you can find some time to see me. I am coming to Delhi on about the 28th inst., and at the time of our interview, I will be able to explain the whole local situation personally.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ratnappa Kumbhar

(RATNAPPA KUMBHAR).

To

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Minister for States,
New Delhi.

Copy forwarded with Compliments to Shri Balasaheb Kher for information

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IX 73

Secret.

No. ADM/Dh/700
Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur, 22nd Aug. 1948.

Dear Mr.

Subject:- Situation-Kolhapur.

Mr. A. B. Latthe, Prime Minister, Kolhapur returned to Kol apur on the 19th from Delhi where he had been to attend the priliminary meeting of the Special Selection Board. On route he halted at Dewas to see the Maharajasaheb of Kolhapur who is now staying at Dewas.

After his return from Delhi, Mr. Latthe has been spreading various adverse rumours regarding the Central Government and particularly, the State Ministry. He has been saying that the States Ministry is extremely incompetent and high-handed and that Delhi is in a chaotic state. According to him, Indian Government will be defeated by Pakistan very soon. At Dewas he had discussion with the Maharaja regarding the organisation of resistence to merger of Kolhapur. Immediately on his r turn to Kolhapur he contacted the Jahagirdars and members of the ex-Ministry now dismissed, in order to gain their support for fithting merger. I saw Mr. Latthe preparing the defence statements for members of the ex-Ministry to be prepsented to the Judicial Enquiry. He is also apreading rumours that the Maharaja has gone to Delhi to arrange for the dismissal of the Administrator.

I understand that the Special Selection Board have made it clear to Mr. Latthe that he cannot work simultaneiously as Prime Minister, Kolhapur and as Member of the Board. Mr. Latthe is expected to make his decision in a week's time. I anticipate that Mr. Latthe will most probably resign from the Special Selection Board. The Maharaja has advised Mr. Latthe to resign from the Selection Board and continue as Prime Minist. It is understood that his pay is being increased from Rs.2500 to Rs.3000 per month (free of income-tax and rent-free house).

The Maharaja left for Dewas ear y this month and is still at that place. He is expected to return here by the first week of September. The ostensible reason for his journey to Dewas is to attend the Gokul Ashtami Festival at that place. He says that he has to attend the function as member of the Dewas family. He however conveniently forgets that he is now adopted in the Kolhapur Ruling family and that his duties lie in Kolhapur State. There is reason to believe that he has proceeded to Dewas for a month's stay in order to drink without interference. He finds the presence of the Administrator at Kolhapur rather awakward in this regard. He is also meeting the Rulers and Jahagirdars of Central India States and indulging in his favourite pastime of mischievous intrigues. Intriguing his unfortunately become second nature to him.

The Rajaram Rifles battalion of the Kolhapur State Forces which is placed at the disposal of the Indian Union is now stationed at Sholapur on the frontier of the Hyderabad State. I have requested the Mharaja to visit his battalion and also tour part of the Hyderabad frontier seeing other India Army Units. I further suggested that I could arrange for some publicity to his visit and that he might usefully issue a statement regarding the placing of the Kolhapur State resources at the disposal of the Indian Union and appealing to the Marathas to support the national Government whole-heartedly. I regret to say that he has not followed my advice so far. I have again conveyed this message to him at Dwas and I am hoping that he will visit Sholapur and see the Kolhapur battilion at an early date in September. I am constrained to remarks that the Maharaja is not takin the slightest interest in the

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administration of the State and the welfare of the people.

Mr. Hire, President of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee and Mr. Chavan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Bombay Government came to Kolhapur last week in order to organise a District Congress Committee in place of the State Praja Parishad. Attempts were also made to bring together the rival political groups in the States. Their attempts, however, have been unsuccessful so far and they have programmed to visit the State again after about a fortnight.

The differences between the two rival political groups in the Stated led by Bagal and Ratnappa Kumbhar are again becoming acute as merger is expected by the public in the near future. Bagal and his men (late Ministry who committed arson and looting) are organising themselves to fight the merger with the support of some of the Jahagirdars and under the auspices of the Maharaja. Their strength is however negligible and I have no doubt of the fate they will meet when the State merges. Majority of the people are awaiting merger anxio sly.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. V. Ranjappa

N. M. Butch, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry ofStates,
New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to M. D. That, Esqr.,CIE., ICS., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
(2) Copy with compliments to I. N. Nadkarni, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor fo Bombay,
(3) Copy with compliments to V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., PrivateSecretary to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi,

for information.

V Ranjappa
Administrator, Kolhapur State.

Zi

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Confidential.

ADM/Dh/

17th August 1948.

Dear Shri

Please refer to letter No. PK-4/48 dated 17th March 1948 from the Prime Minister, Kolhapur, addressed to the Revenue Minister, Kolhapur. In this letter Rao Bahadur Surve has directed the Revenue Minister to hand over the areas known as Katyayani Park and Vagsi to the Comprtoller of the Household claiming these lands as the private property of His Highness. It has been clearly laid down by the Regency Council and approved by the Crown Representative in 1944 that all lands which were not Sheri lands in 1894 i.e. at the time of the accession of the late His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj should be considered as State lands. It is not understood how the Prime Minister can without the approval of the States Ministry claim these lands as belonging to Khasgi. It is noticed that Rao Bahadur Surve the then Prime Minister has transferred to the Khasgi from the State Treasury an amount of about Rs.8 lakhs on the pretext that they are income from Sheri lands while under the management of the Regency Council. This was reversing the final decision of the Crown Representative and the Regency Council.

It is also noticed that large amounts have been taken away from the treasury in this manner under some pretext or the other causing a deficit of Rs.65 lakhs in last year's budget, the total amount of revenue being only Rs. one crore and 20 lakhs. This has completely upset the financial equilibrum of the State and I am now seriously handicapped in administering this State. I have had to order the disposal of securities for meeting the last year's expenditure and balancing the budget somehow. After examining the financial position I cannot but emphatically inform you that I take a most serious view of these transactions which amount, in my opinion, to a very serious financial scandal, and deliberate mismanagement of State finances.

I enclose herewith a Statement shwoing

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the irregular payments made to Khasgi Department from time to time during the last year under orders of Rao Bahadur Surve. I shall be glad if immediate arrangements are made to refund the mounts to the State Treasury.

Yours

V. Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

Shri A. B. Latthe, M.A., LL.B.,
Prime Minister,
Kolhapur.

Copy with compliments forwarded to -

(1) The Secretary States Ministry, New Delhi.

(2) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi,

for information.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No. ADM/Dh/598

Secret.

14th August 1948.

Dear Rao Bahadur Menon,

Subject:- Anti-Merger propaganda in Kolhapur.

During his visit to Kolhapur last week, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay had confidential talks with the Maharajasaheb of Kolhapur during which he made it clear to the Maharajasaheb that Kolhapur State will have to merge with the Indian Union some time or the other and that this was only a question of time. The Maharajasaheb told His Excellency that he was prepared to do anything for the Indian Union and hand over all pwers etc., but he would not sign the merger agreement willingly. The Maharajasaheb has also suggested that he was prepared to abdicate in favour of his son or appoint the Maharanisaheb as Regent if necessary. Personally, I consider that this is only a formal stand taken up by His Highness and that he would sign the merger agreement if tackled by the Hon. Sardar Patel. The Maharaja's stand is only natural and to be expected. In my opinion, he will go on saying this until he actually signs.

Thereis, however, an unfortunate reaction to the above talks. His Highness appears to have become desparate and has launched an intensive campaign against merger. He is attempting to rally round him all the reactionary and mischievous elements in the State. Immediately after the Governor's departure he had secret talks with Mr. Bagal in the Palace when Bagal assured the Maharajasaheb of his wholehearted support and agreed to fight against merger. This has been told to me by the Maharaja himself. T h e Maharaja has also contacted anti-Congress Maratha elements and particularly the leaders of the so-called Bahujanwadi party like Jedhe and More. Jedhe and More though they are really in favour of merger have agreed to support the Maharaja in order to spite the Congress party in power.

His Highness has now left the State for Dewas and is expected to return in the first week of September. Mr. Latthe, the Prime Minister has also proceeded to Delhi to attend the meeting of the Special Selection Board of which he is a member. It is understood that the Special Selection

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Board will proceed to tour headquarters of most Indian Provinces for interviewing candidates. I am sorry to report that both His Highness and Mr. Latthe are taking absolutely no interest in the administration of the State and the welfare of the people. Unfortunately under the existing constitution of the State I have to obtain the signature of His Highness on legal enactments. I am just now considering the question of withdrawal of civil and criminal powers of Jagirdars and Feudatory Chiefs in Kolhapur and the Maharaja is doing hisbest to avoid putting his signature on it. This is only one instance of the obstructionist and delay tactics of the Maharaja. Both Mr. Latthe and the Maharaja are doing their best to make it as difficult as possible for me to administer the State. Files sent to the Maharaja for formal approval required under the law are delayed by him for weeks and months deliberately.

There is reason to believe that Mr.M.K.Bagal and members of his party are plotting to create trouble on 15th August, the Independence Day to mar the celebrations. They are advising people secretly not to take part in the celebrations. I suspect that Bagal is doing this under the instructions from His Highness. I wanted to arrange a Military-cum-Police parade on 15th morning and His Highness has put forward all kinds of excuses for not asking the Military to parade on that day. However, a police parade is being held and the public are expected to attend in large numbers. Incidentially, I understand that last year the Maharaja had ordered that the Indian Union Flags should not be flown on any Government building on the 15th of August and his orders were carried out. This year I have ordered the flying of Indian and Kolhapur flags on 15th on all Government buildings. I am also giving an At Home to the leading citizens of the State on that day. I have advised Bagal and his men not to create trouble on the 15th and warned them about the consequences.

Mr. Latthe is also openly carrying on campaign against merger. In addition he openly ridicules the Indian Government and members of the Indian and Bombay Governments. He says that the Indian Government is inefficient and weak and will soon be defeated by Hyderabad.

After careful consideration of the situation in Kolhapur State, I have come to the conclusion that the time is ripe for completing its merger. Public opinion is very strongly in favour of merger except only a selfish minority consisting of few Jagirdars and communalists. I do not

expect any outbreak of villence if merger takes place today. Further, I feel confident that the situation is fully under control and I will be able to deal with any emergency that may arise. The police are thoroughly loyal and the top officers are now brought from Bombay. The Government services are all in favour of merger.

I hope to come to Delhi some time about the third or 4th week of this month when I shall explain the matter personally in further detail.

Yours Sincerely
V Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

Rao Bahadur V.P. Menon,
~~Secretary, Min. Estry~~, of States,
New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to -

(1) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi.

(2) Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher, Prime Minister, Government of Bombay, Bombay,

for information.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Confdl.
ADM/Dh/553

Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur, 12th August 1948.

Dear Shri.

Please refer to your Secret D.O. No.A3(1)/48 dated 17th July 1948 and my reply No. ADM/Dh/312 dated 21st July 1948. I have discussed the question of withdrawal of Jagirdars' powers with the Hon. Sardar Patel and Mr.V.P. Menon, Secretary, States Ministry and both of them have definitely advised me to immediately proceed with the scheme for withdrawal of civil, criminal, revenue and other powers exercised by the Jagirdars and Feudatory Chiefs of the Kolhapur State.

I have already informed you about this personally.

You are doubtless aware of the insistent public demand in the State for immediate withdrawal of Jagirdars' powers. From what I have seen during the last 4 months, I have no hesitationin saying that there is serious mal-administration and consequent discontentment in the Jagirs. Corruption is rampant and the administration of Justice is almost a farce.

I have also pointed out to you that similar action has been taken in the Gwalior State to withdraw Jagirdars' powers. The exercise of these powers is neither inconformity with public opinion in this State nor with the policy of Government. The present practice is undoubtedly inimical to the progress and welfare of the people of the Jagirs and the State.

It is essential to have a standardised administratio for all the villages in the kolhapur State. Unless this is done it is impossible to expect any improvement in the administration of the Jagir and the Darbar territories. Similarly uniformity of legislationis also absolutely essential

Several Jagirdars have personally approached me and have unequivocally expressed a desire to surrender their powers. It is also understood that the Jagirdars are being prevented from approaching the Administrator and from surrendering their powers. I would sincerely request you to desist from such a policy. I know of cases where Jagirdars.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

have been warned for calling on the Regional Commissioner and the Administrator.

I have incidentially noticed that you are opposing and delaying every piece of legislation suggested by me. It appears to me that this is your policy. You have raised the bogey that His Highness cannot promulgate legislation except for an emergency. You have recently advised His Highness against imposition of the Sales Tax in the State. This is very surprising in view of the fact that it was you as Finance Minister of Bombay, who introduced the Sales Tax Act in that Province. Unless the Sales Tax Act is promulgated and the revenues of the State improved, a very seriou situation will arise. The financial position as I have seen after I took over, has reached a crisis and every effort must be made to increase the revenues. If you persist in following the policy of opposing all useful legislation, I will be compelled to bring the situation to the notice of the States Ministry.

I would like to make it clear that as all the transferred departments areunder the control of the Administrator, he has got every authority to draft and enact necessary legislation for the progress of the State and to keept the administration in line with the Provinces and States of the Indian Union. Sanction by His Highness is only a mere formality. It is therefore expected in all fairness that His Highness' assent is communicated to me at the earliest possible opportunity and without unnecessary delay.

Yours

V Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

Shri A. B. Latthe, M.A., LL.B.,
Prime Minister,
Kolhapur.

Copy with compliments to -

(1) Secretary, Ministry of States, New Delhi.
(2) V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to Hon. Dy. Prime Minister, New Delhi.
(3) Chief Secretary to Government, Government of Bombay, Bombay,

for information.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

GOVERNMENT OF KOLHAPUR

Administrator's Office,
KOLHAPUR.
27th June 1948.

My dear Shankar,

Mr. A. B. Lathe has now received an invitation from the Ministry of Home Affairs to join Special Recruitment Board. A new development has however occurred here. As Rao Bahadur Surve was interfering with the Bank enquiry I have persuaded His Highness to compel Surve to proceed on leave and remain outside the State during the enquiry. His Highness has also made up his mind to discharge Rao Bahadur Surve from the State service after the expiry of his leave. Mr. Lathe is in the meanwhile looking after the duties of the Prime Minister and appears to be anxious to be appointed to the post permanently. He has not yet quite made up his mind to accept the place in the selection board and is wavering to take a decision. I will do my best to persuade him to accept the post at Delhi. His highness on the contrary is persuading him to remain as Prime Minister. Mr. Lathe is a rather greedy person and is calculating as to which job will be more paying and it appears to me that final decision will depend on this factor alone. I may also mention Mr. Lathe has considerable loyalty and affection for His Highness. As soon as he takes a decision finally I will write to you.

I also successfully requested Hon. Mr.N.V. Gadgil and Hon. Mr. Kher to impress on Mr. Lathe the advisibility of his accepting a post in the Government of India.

Yours Sincerely
V Nanjappa
(V. Nanjappa)

V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to Dy. Prime Minister,
Dehra Dun.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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Secret

3rd/10th August 1948.

Dear Mr.

Subject:- Communal propaganda in Kolhapur State.

Messrs Jedhe and More founders of the newly formed Bahujan Samaj communalist party, visited Kolhapur State during the last two days. They asked for permission to hold a public meeting at Kolhapur and permission was granted as it was considered undersirable to unduly restrict meetings and political activity.

There is reason to believe that these gentlemen came to Kolhapur at the secret invitation of His Highness the Maharajasaheb through his Hon. surgeon Dr. Dhanavade an arch communalist and mischief monger of the State. This Dr. Dhanavade took a leading part in inciting arson and looting during the recent disturbances. M/s Jedhe and More were guests of Dr. Dhanavade and had confidential discussions with Bagal and Prof. Khardekar. It is understood that Dr. Dhanavade and Madhavrao Bagal have been visiting his Highness secretly in the palace to convey the substance of the talks to the Maharaja. During a recent meeting of mine with the Maharaja the latter remarked " why should the Government object if I or my son Ex.Maharaja of Devas become leaders of the communal movement in Maharashtra ". Some rulers of the merged Deccan States, especially Savantwadi, Sangli and Miraj have been coming and going to Kolhapur especially during the last few days. It appears that an attempt is being made by the Maharajasaheb to organise the reactionary elements in the State with the object of getting some support for himself. I have no hesitation in saying that these efforts will be unsuccessful and are like a drowning man catching at a straw.

Immediately on my return from Delhi I arranged for the dismissal of Mr. Surve, Prime Minister as he was seriously interfering with the administration and giving full support and encouragement to the mischievous elements in the State. I also ordered that Mr. Surve should not

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enter Kolhapur State without written permission. These orders are being enforced. Mr. A. B. Latthe the so-called constitutional Adviser to Kolhapur State has now been appointed as Prime Minister by His Highness in place of Mr. Surve.

Mr. Surve is residing at Poona and appears to be in contact with M/s Jedhe and More.

Mr. M. K. Bagal has definitely thrown in his lot with the communalist party of Jedhe and More though he has made a public announcement of having left politics.

In his recent speech at Kolhapur Mr. More bitterly criticised the Central and Bombay Government and made personal attacks on Pandit Jawaharlal Neheru, Sardar Patel and other leaders. He stated that the Congress leaders are selfish and do not desire to serve the public. He even advised the audience not to give subscriptions to the Gandhi memorial fund. M/s Jedhe and More were accompanied by Comrade Khadilkar a communist from Poona. There is reason to believe that some communists in Maharashtra have decided to support Jedhe and More.

The Kolhapur Maharaja's support to Jedhe and More can be seen from the following :-

(1) He inaugerated the so-called Maratha Education Conference at Nasik and gave a donation of Rs. seventyfive thousand to Mr. D. S. Wagh the right hand man of Jedhe and More in Nasik District. This so-called Educational Conference passed resolutions opposing the merger of Kolhapur and Baroda. The donation to Mr. Wagh is nothing but a bribe to the Marathas to support the Maharaja.

(2) The Maharaja has given away several buildings and a large area of land at Kolhapur to the notorious communalist Bhaurao Patil of Satara for starting a teachers' training school. Bhaurao Patil is the chief lieutanant of Jedhe and More in Satara district and he is a welknown communalist who attacked the policy of the Bombay Government after Mahatma Gandhi's death. The buildings and land given to Bhaurao Patil are claimed by the Maharaja as his private property. The buildings are actually occupied by the Kolhapur State Secondary Training College. The Maharaja did not care to consider whether the Government training college was houses in any alternative premises. Naturally I have refused to hand over possession to Bhaurao Patil

until the question of the ownership of the buildings and land is settled and the Government Secondary College secured alternative accommodation.

(3) The recent visit of Jedhe and More to Kolhapur and the staying as guests of Dr. Dhanavade. Secret visits of Dr. Dhanavade and Bagal to the palace.

(4) His Highness the Maharajasaheb is financing a newspaper in Kolhapur called Lok Sevak. This journal has given great prominence to the visit of Jedhe and More and to their speeches. This daily is now openly supporting the communalists and attacking the Congress.

Inspite of the attempts of the Maharajasaheb to help Jedhe and More it is interesting to note that these two politicians are in favour of merger of Kolhapur and all other Indian States.

Yours

V Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

M. K. Kirpalani, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to V. Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Hon. Dy. Prime Minister, New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to the Chief Secretary to Government, Government of Bombay, Bombay.

Copy with compliments to Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher, Prime Minister, Government of Bombay, Bombay.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

File

D.O.No. 12 of 48.

SECRET

~~25th May 1948.~~

5th June 1948.

Dear

Please find herewith copy of D.O.No.ADM/Dh 65 dated 25th May 1948 addressed to Rao Bahadur Surve, Prime Minister, Kolhapur, regarding ownership of Shalininiwas Palace. This Palace was purchased by the Government of Kolhapur in 1946 for Rs. nine lakhs with the approval of the Resident of the State and was used as Government office until the adoption of the present Maharaja. After Rao Bahadue Surve's appointment he has given orders to the P.W.D. Kolhapur to hand over the Palace and other buildings attached, to the Comprtoller of the Household, Kolhapur. The late Popular Minister declined to implement this order of the Prime Minister and there was some difference of opinion. It is obvious that the Palace is the property of the Government of Kolhapur and cannot be handed over to the Khasgi Department.

I have noticed that several properties in Kolhapur, Bombay and Poona have been transferred to the Khasgi Department by Rao Bahadur Surve in recent months. I have information from previous Prime Ministers including Diwan Bahadur Lathe that the Palaces at Poona and Bombay are definitely State properties and were purchased in his time from State funds. I enclose herewith a list of such properties now being claimed as the personal property of His Highness by the Prime Minister. These orders of the Prime Minister are obviously detrimental to the interests of the State and cannot be carried out. I am taking suitable action to assert Government's claim over these properties and take them back in Government's possession at an early date. I am writing this to you beforehand to keep you informed of the situation as my action may arouse difficulties and controversy.

Yours

V Nanjappa

(V. Nanjappa)

M. K. Kirpalani, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary, Government of India,
States Ministry, New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to V.Shankar, Esqr., I.C.S., Private Secretary to the Dy. Prime Minister, New Delhi.

Copy with compliments to C.K.Desai, Esqr., I.C.S., (Retd.), Chief Commissioner, for Cutch, Bhuj, Cutch.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Jai Hind

CONFIDENTIAL

Kolhapur.
24-11-1947.

My dear Sardarji,

I received your two telegrams - one expressing congratulations and another asking for a detailed information regarding the settlement arrived at between The Kolhapur Praja Parishad and The Maharaja. Owing to the internal grave crisis in the Praja Parishad itself I could not write to you earlier nor could send the required information in time; for this unavoidable delay on my part, Sardarji, I hope you will kindly excuse me.

The tragic event of this our internal crisis has had a long and chaquered history behind it. Suffice it here to say that we had prepared ourselves for the final struggle with a certainty for a complete success; but as bad luck would have it, The maharaja proved successful in ensnaring our Praja Parishad President Shri H.K.Bagal and winning him over to his side. We were compelled to accept the settlement by a peculiar force of circumstances that we were placed in. In spite of this we tried to make the settlement as less faulty as possible. And the good effect of this settlement was all dependent upon the stength of the machinery which was to be instituted by the Praja Parishad. As a result of this, we decided to enter the Interium Ministry and selected our front-rank leaders including our President Shri M.K.Hegal for four ministerships. But immediately after a suspicion lurked in our mind which to our regret proved to be true by later events that Shri Bagal was secretly in league with The Maharaja and that disregarding his own colleagues he was determined to use the Praja Parishad as a King's party and that too on communal basis.

[illegible] found ourselves in a very intriguing situation and ultimately decided to dissociate from Shri Bagal. Consequently we, the [illegible] members of the Working Committee tendered our resignations of the Working Committee.

Immediately after, the reactionary papers issued a detailed statement of which a copy is sent herewith for your information. This statement will, I hope, give you an idea as to the present Kolhapur situation and a true perspective of the stand we have taken.

We have sent a requisition to the President to call in an extra-ordinary session of the Central Body of our Praja Parishad. In that session, we are quite sure that the verdict of that body will be in our favour and we hope once again to hold aloft the Praja Parishad flag on a completely non-communal basis.

I am also sending a copy of the draft Covenant entered into by the Maharaja with the Praja Parishad. [redacted]

Sardarji, we are indeed at this stage struggling against great odds in the grave internal crisis. I shall let you know about further developments as the events occur in the future. Kindly convey my best regards to Shri Maniben.

Yours Sincerely,

Ratnappa Kumbhar

My Address:
Ratnappa Kumbhar
c/o Prabhakar M. Kergaonkar.
Shahupuri-Kolhapur.

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The following statement has been issued by the eight members of the Working Committee of the Kolhapur State Praja Parishad, who have recently tendered their resignations :-

We, the undersigned eight out of the fifteen members of the Working Committee of the Kolhapur State Praja Parishad have tendered our resignations of our membership of the Working Committee to the Working President, Shri. M.K. Bagal on the 17th of November 1947. Two of us namel Shri M.D. Shreshthi and Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar have also submitted their resignations of Ministership in the Interim Government of the Kolhapur State. We offered our resignations not out of a desire to get into power but as a protest against the undemocratic behaviour of Shri Bagal, the Working President who havingbeen in league wit the Maharaja did not take his coleagues into confidence, regarded his own person superior to the Praja Parishad, and acted contrary to the directions of the Working Committee. We are here stating bare facts bearing on the situation for the information of the public.

(1) On 12-11-1947 after a discussion in the meeting of the Working Committee it was decided that the following four persons namely (1) Shri M.K.Bagal (2) Shri M.D. Shreshthi (3) Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar and (4) Shri D.S. Khandekar should represent Praja Parishad on the Interim Ministry.

(2) On the 14th of November 1947, a meeting of thes four Minister-designate was arranged at 4 p.m., for deci ing allotment of port-folios amongest themselves. Shri Bagal came to the meetinglate by one hour and stated tha as he had gone to the Palace he was delayed. On asking

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IND

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

asking him what had transpired at the Palace, he retorted that he had some private discussion with the Maharaja which he said he would not disclose to them. Then a discussion ensued. At the outset Shri Bagal gave out that he would take up the portfolios of Education and Home and Shri Khandekar that of Revenue; the rest of the portfolios may be allotted by the two amongst themselves. Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar thereupon expressed his opposition to the dictational way in which those proposals were placed before the meeting. Shri Bagal insisted on his retaining the Home department as the Chief Minister-designate. It may be noted that nobody till then was elected as the Chief Minister-designate. The discussion prolonged without any definite decision being arrived at. In the end, Shri Ratnappa told Shri Bagal that if the latter in his capacity of the Working President gave them a written order they would abide by it. This meeting ended without coming to any definite conclusions.

(3) On the 15th November 1947, the Oath-taking -- ceremony of the four Ministers took place at the Palace.

(4) On the 16th inst. a Cabinet Meeting of the seven Ministers was arranged at 9-30 a.m. In order to take a decision on the vexed question of the division of port-folios a prior meeting of the four Parishad Ministers was convened at 7-30 a.m. at Shri Shreshthi's residence. Shri Bagal and Shri Khandekar did not attend the meeting at the appointed time, and as the working Committee was scheduled to meet at 9 a.m., this meeting could not take place and even the Cabinet meeting called at 9-30 a.m. was postponed to 4 p.m. in the evening.

(5) In the meeting of the Working Committee held at

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

at 9 a.m. discussion began on the subject of appointment of a parliamentary Board but even here at the outset Shri Bagal asserted that he, the Working President had entered the Ministry and as such he would not subject himself to the direction of the Parliamentary Board. Hence it was decided that the Working Committee itself should act as the Parliamentary Board. Accordingly the Working Committee passed a resolution recording its strong protest against the orders passed by the Darbar (after the -- announcement of the agreement) concening new appointments promotion etc. in the Civil Services, and directed the Parishad Ministers to abrogate those orders at the very commencement of assumingtheir charge. The Working Committee meeting adjourned at 2 p.m. to meet again at 9 p.m.

(6) On the 16th it had been agreed to hold a meeting of the four Parishad Ministers at 3 p.m. prior to the postponed Cabinet meeting of the Seven Ministers in order to take decision regarding the allotment of port-folios. But Shri Bagal and Shri Khandekar having not turned up again at the appointed time this meeting could be held only at 4-30 p.m., necessitating a further postponement of the Seven Ministers' Cabinet Meeting to the next day at 9 a.m.

The meeting of the four Ministers commenced at 4-30 p.m. and after a little discussion Shri Bagal said that regarding the division ofportfolios amongst themselves the matter be referred to the Working Committee itself whereupon Shri Ratnappa implored that it was not proper to entrust that matter to the Working Committee; instead, they shold decide it themselves. Before they could arrive at an agreed solution of the problem Shri Bagal and Khandekar left the meeting and went away.

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(7) That very night, as announced earlier the Working Committee was to have met at 9 p.m., but Shri Bagal all of a sudden directed that the meeting was adjourned sine die and that the members coming from the moffusil should leave Kolhapur for their destinations. Shri Barale, the general Secretary himself came to Shri Shreshthi's house to communicate to Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar of the meeting. There Shri Shreshthi gave a written requisition to the General Secretary, wherein he pointed out that as no decision regarding the allotment ofportfolios was finally arrived at, and as the Cabinet meeting of the Seven -- Ministers was schedhed to take place the next morning at 9 a.m. it was but necessary that that question be decided in the Working Committee and hence the meeting shohd be held. Consequently, after an hour, the General Secretary brought to Shri Ratnappa and Shreshthi the message of Shri Bagal that the Working Committee would meet the next day at 9 in the morning.

(8) On the 17th when the Working Committee met at 9 a.m., three issues were placed before it for a final decision. They were, (1) Allotment of portfolios, (2) the incompatibility of one and the same person working as the President and a Minister and (3) the appointment of a Parliamentary Board for the purposes ofthe selection of candidates etc, for the ensuing election to the Kolhapur Legislature.

When the first issue came up to consideration, votes were taken to decide whether the matter should be again left to the vote of the members for an ultimate decision. The majority favoured the method of voting and as a result when the votes were actually taken, the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the majority decided to entrust the portfolio of Home Affairs to Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar. After deciding about the portfolios of Finance and Revenue, the majority again decided to allot Supply to Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar, Shri Bagal himself casting his vote in Ratnappa's favour. In deciding about Finance and Revenue, Shri Bagal used his individual as well as casting vote and thus Shri Khandekar was allotted Revenue and by a single casting vote Shri Shreshthi was entrusted with Finance.

When the Second issue namely, one and the same person cannot act both as the Working President of the Parishad and as a Minister in the Cabinet, Shri Bagal instantaneously said that that point need not be considered at all; for as he was not allotted Home which he very much desired to have, he would tender his resignation of the Ministership . He accordingly recorded his disapproval of the Working Committee's decision regarding himself in the letter of resignation itself and tendered the same to the Working Committee. The Working Committee, thereupon, requested him to withdraw the resignation bringing to his notice that tendering the resignation at that time was tantamount to disregarding the Working Committee's own direction in the matter. Shri Bagal replied that he would at no cost withdraw the resignation, the Working Committee might take any disciplinary action against him if they so chose.

In deciding not to act according to the direction of the Working Committee, Shri Bagal flouted the Working Committee. He also displayed the attitude of a dictator in the matter of the allotment of portfolios, acting in the wrong belief of himself being the Chief Minister. As a protest against these flagrant breaches of a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a democratic procedure, we the eig
Committee submitted our regismatio
our majority in the Working Commit
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Shri Bagal in his stat

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a democratic procedure, we the eight members ofthe Working Committee submitted our regisnations. On the strength of our majority in the Working Committee we could have accepted Shri Bagal's resignation of the Ministership and appointed another person as a Minister in his place, but we thought it better not to use on majority strength, instend. We decided to place our case before the Central body of the Praja Parishad for its decision and consequently we came out tenderingour resignations of the Working Committee.

Shri Bagal in his statement published on the 19th of November 1947 says, that he was entrusted with the leadership of the four Praja Parishad Ministers; this is quite wrong; Had he been entrusted with subh leadership and the power to allot portfolios amongst his colleagues, he would not have at all called the meeting of the Working Committee on the 17th to consider these same matters. He actually called the meeting, place this issue before it and decided the matter in the light of the votes cast in the meeting.

His contention in the statement that he was made Minister-without-portfolio is also absolutely mistaken. For, excepting Home, Finance, Revenue and Supply, some of the remaining portfolios like Education would have been entrusted to him. When it was proposed that Supply should be given to him, he himself cast his vote in favour of Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar, alloting Supply to him.

We have placed before the public the facts as they occurred and we hope that the public will now be in a position to appraise the situation.

Ratnappa Kumbhar.

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2. Nizam Kazi
3. M.D. Shreshthi
4. Shankarrao Mane.
5. B.S. Patil
6. Dada Ramchandra Magdum
7. Balawant Kammappa Naik
8. R.J. Bagade.

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Covenant between His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharajasaheb of Kolhapur and the Praja Parishad of Kolhapur Staye:

WHEREAS His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja--saheb is of opinion that all power emanates from the people and whereas His Highness now wishes to establish full Responsible Government under the aegis of the Chhatrapati and within the Indian Union, it is agreed between His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharajasaheb of the one part and the Kolhapur ~~xx~~ Sansthan Praja Parishad of the other part as follows: on this th day of the Month of November in the year 1947 A.D.

Art. 1: There shall at once be set up an interim ministry to advise and assist His High--ness in carrying on the administration of the State in accordance with the terms agreed to in this Covenant.

This ministry shall consist of the following persons :

(1) The Prime Minister of Kolhapur as appointed by His Highness:

(2) Four Ministers nominated by the Praja Parishad of Kolhapur State. The three existing non-official Minister--s in the present Executive Council of the Kolhapur State. The Ministray will function as body with joint responsibility and the Prime Minister shall preside over the meeting but the other ministers may elect a chief Minister from among themselves who

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

may preside over the meetings in the absence of the Prime Minister and who shall be the Leader of the Legislature. The Prime Minister may take part in the discussion on the matters within the jurisdiction of the ministry but shall not vote thereon.

The Ministry may similarly discuss matters within the jurisdiction of His Highness and submit their views thereon.

Art.2: Constituent Assembly: As soon as the Legislature is elected on the franchise provided for in the "Dasara Declaration of His Highness the ministry shall set up a Constituent Assembly composed of the elected members of the Legislative composed of the elected members of the Legislature for the purpose of framing a Constitution Bill for the State of Kolhapur, providing for Responsible Government, under the aegis of His Highness, which will be promulgated by His Highness when assented to by him and it shall be a part of the fundamental law of the State.

The election of the Legislature shall be by the method of distributive vote.

Immediately after the elections of the Legislature His Highness will call upon the leader of the majority party to advise and assist him for the formation of a new ministry.

The following shall be matters within the jurisdiction of His Highness.

1. Army: PROVIDED:-

1) The Army shall be used by His Highness to maintain peace and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

order on the advice of the Cabinet whenever and wherever necessary and it shall not be used in the State expect for the purpose of preventing or suppressing serious breach of peace;

2) If the services of the Army are to be placed at the disposal of any other State that will be done only on the advice of the ministry;

3) The strength of the Army shall be fixed and the budgetory provision, shall be made by the Constituent Assemboy after taking into consideration all relevant facts.

2. Alienations: His Highness shall take decisions in consultation with the Cabinet in the following matters:-

(a) Permission to adopt according to the law in the State.

(b) Final decisions in heirship enquiry of Dumaldars and persons of similar higher status;

(c) Powers to resume Inams;

(d) Appeals to His Highness shall lie in cases in which the alienations has been injuriously affected by any decision of the ministry in accordance with the existing law and Rules.

(e) Jahagirdars shall appoint Karbharis and Police Officers in the Jahagirs with the previous approval of His Highness and His Highness shall

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

consult the Minister concerned.

(f) The Minister concerned shall have power to make transfers of the Police Officer to any part of the State when necessary;

(g) Alterations in the existing Inam Land and Vat Hukums shall be made with the sanction of His Highness.

(h) The Judicial Officers in the Jahagirs shall be under the control of the Chief Justice of the Kolhapur High Court who shall have powers to trans--fer Judicial Officers, to any part of the State and vice versa;

(i) The Judicial Officers in the Jahagirs shall be appointed by the Jahagirdars with the previous consent of the Chief Justice of the Kolhapur High Court;

(j) After deducting the civil list allotment for the Jahagirdars and their families, the remaining revenue of the Jahagirs shall be under the control of the Kolhapur Government.

(k) The ministry shall be in charge of all the nation building departments in the Jahagirs and shall control all administrative departments therein;

(l) A scheme shall be formulated to introduce efficiency, in the Jahagir administration and to bring the status, pay, security of services of the Jahagir servants in line on that obtaining in the State.

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Art. 3:- Public Service Commission shall be appointed by the ministry in consultation with His Highness.

Art:-4:- The treaties with the Indian Union and the other States and agreements with them in respect of co-operation in administration shall be entered into, altered or terminated with the approval of His Highness

Art:-5 Protection to minorities shall be on the lines of the constitution of the Indian Union

Art 6:- Emergency will be declared by His Highness on the advice of the ministry.

Art 7:- The Privy Purse of His Highness and the Royal Family for the next five years from the year 1947-48 shall be Rs.eleven lakhs a year only.

After the lapse of these five years, the allotment for the purpose shall be at the rate of 10% of the net revenue of the State upto Rs. one crore, at the rate of 7½% on the excess of revenue above one crore upto two crores and at the rate of 5% on the revenue in excess of two crores.

These percentages will be calculated on the average net revenue of the five years, commencing from the year 1947-48.

Art.8: The provisions of the Kolhapur Constitution Act of 1947 shall be amended and shall be considered as amended in so far as these provisions may be repugnant to and inconsistant with the present Covenant

Art.9:Except in so far as powers have been hereby reserved by His Highness, the administration of the State shall be in the hands of the Government of Kolhapur.

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D.O.No.H-4(2)/47

New Palace,
Kolhapur, 10th August 1947

My dear Sardar Sahebs

I have already intimated to you my decision to accede to the Dominion of India in respect of Defence, External Affairs and Communications. I hope you have by now received my communication on the subject. You will have noticed that my decision is clear and definite. I have however been feeling that though I would not wish my accession to be clogged by conditions, I may invite your kind attention to a passage in the speech of His Excellency the Crown Representative at the Conference of Princes and States Representatives on the 25th ultimo. Addressing the Conference, His Excellency then observed:-

" One explanation probably was that some of you were apprehensive that the Central Government would attempt to impose a financial liability on the States or encroach in other ways on their sovereignty. If I am right in this assumption, at any rate so far as some Princes are concerned, I think I must dispel their apprehensions and misgivings. The draft

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D.O.No.H-4(2)/47

New Palace,
Kolhapur, 10th August 1947

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D.O.No.H-4(2)/47

New Palace,
Kolhapur, 10th August 1947

My dear Sardar Sahebs

I have already intimated to you my decision to accede to the Dominion of India in respect of Defence, External Affairs and Communications. I hope you have by now received my communication on the subject. You will have noticed that my decision is clear and definite. I ha e however been feel--ing that though I would not wish my accession to be clogged by conditions, I may invite your kind attention to a passage in the speech of His Excellency the Crown Representative at the Conference of Princes and States Representatives on the 25th ultimo. Addressing the Conference, His Excellency then observed:-

" One explanation probably was that some of you were apprehensive that the Central Government would attempt to impose a financial liability on the States or encroach in other ways on their sovereignty. If I am right in this assumption, at any rate so far as some Princes are concerned, I think I must dispel their apprehensions and misgivings. The draft

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Instrument of Accession, which I have caused to be circulated as a basis for discussion and not for publication to the Representatives of the States, provides that the States accede to the appropriate Dominion on three subjects only without any financial liability."

This assurance that the States accede in this case "without any financial liability" is quite clear. All the same, many of us, the Rulers of States, felt that this assurance may be appropriately embodied in the Instrument of Accession then under discussion. The view taken by the Secretary of the States Department was that the Instrument as drafted did mean that there was no financial liability on the States which ~~xxxxxx~~ acceded in terms of that Draft. Besides this, the public declaration made by His Excellency on a solemn occasion like that of the Conference of 25th July was there to reassure us. But I think it my duty to say that opponents of the accession of States to the Dominion of India are still spreading the impression that once the States sign the Instrument, attempts to subject them to financial burdens in the form of direct taxation may be made. It would, therefore, I suggest, be a very

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effective check upon this propaganda, and it would also remove possible misgivings about interpretations of the Instrument in the future years, to make a statement on behalf of the Dominion Government of India that the state--ment of His Excellency quoted above is also the view of your Government. Such a statement by you would go a great way in removing still-existing misgivings and silencing all opposition, whether silent or vocal.

I hope you will consider this suggestion in the spirit of absolute friendship in which I have made it to you. A line in reply would oblige.

With kindest regards
Yours Sincerely
Shahaji Chhatrapati

Hon'ble
Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel,
Minister, States Department,
New Delhi.

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D.O.No.H-4(2)/47

New Palace,
Kolhapur, 9th August 1947

My dear Sardar Saheb

I am very glad to inform you that I have now decided to join the Constituent Assembly of the Indian Dominion and have communicated this decision today to the Hon'ble Babu Rajendra Prasadji, the President of the Consembly. I have appointed Shriyut A. B. Latthe to be the representative of the Kolhapur State. In view of the decisions of the Negotiat--ing Committees, this appointment is the sole concern of the Ruler. But I have consulted the elected Ministers in my Executive Council on this question and am glad that they approve of the selection made by me.

I am sorry owing to certain circumstances of which I have already given you some idea, I had to delay this decision so long.

I hope your States Department will take cognisance of my having sent my State's Representative to the Consembly.

With kindest regards
yours sincerely
Shahaji Chhatrapati

Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel,
New Delhi

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